

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: June 14, 2011

To: All Commands

From: **DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**
Office of the Commissioner

File No.: 1.9486.A13630.065.2011.6.0018

Subject: VEHICLE THEFT STATISTICS FOR 2010

The attached vehicle theft statistics for 2010 include statewide totals for vehicle thefts, stolen vehicle recoveries, and the recovery rate. Theft and recovery statistics are also shown for the various vehicle-type categories.

Thanks to your combined efforts, California 2010 vehicle thefts decreased by 6 percent when compared to 2009. Of the 158,883 reported stolen vehicles in 2010, 88.6 percent of those vehicles were recovered. This trend indicates that vehicle theft reduction efforts statewide have been effective. Your efforts combined with the strategic deployment of bait cars and license plate reader systems, joint task force operations, vehicle theft training, and district attorney cooperation have all contributed to this decline. The economic loss to Californians continues to exceed \$1 billion; therefore, I encourage you to continue your hard work to combat vehicle theft in 2011.

The attached vehicle theft fact sheet lists California's most popular theft targets, percentages on vehicle recovery conditions, and a list of the state's top ten reporting law enforcement agencies. A separate sheet depicting theft and recovery totals for California's 58 counties is also attached. Additionally, this report includes information on vehicle theft trends.

The data provided is for information purposes and may be reproduced. All public information coordinators and public information officers should be made aware of the availability of this information. Any questions concerning this information should be directed to Field Support Section at (916) 843-3470.


J. A. FARROW
Commissioner

Attachments





2010 California Vehicle Theft Facts

VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2010, 158,883 vehicles were stolen. The estimated total value of the vehicles was approximately \$1 billion. (This figure is based on the average replacement value established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.)
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- Of the vehicles stolen in 2010, 60.7 percent were automobiles, 26 percent were personal trucks and vans, 3.8 percent were motorcycles, and 4.2 percent were commercial trucks and trailers. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction, and farm equipment) accounted for 5.3 percent.
- Top three theft targets:

Autos

Honda Accord 1991
Honda Accord 1994
Honda Accord 1992

Motorcycles

Suzuki 2007
Yamaha 2007
Yamaha 2009

Pickups and Vans

Toyota Pickup 1988
Toyota Pickup 1986
Toyota Pickup 1987

Commercial Trucks

Freightliner 2000
Freightliner 1999
Freightliner 2001

Recreational Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicle 2006
All Terrain Vehicle 2005
All Terrain Vehicle 2007

Trailers

Homemade Utility Trailer 2000
Carson Trailer 2007
Homemade Utility Trailer 2010

WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED

- Approximately 52.4 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties).
- Approximately 28.6 percent of all vehicle thefts occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 14.4 percent of the thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties).
- Approximately 6 percent of all the thefts occurred in Sacramento County.
- Approximately 4.6 percent of all the thefts occurred in Fresno County.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting the incidence of vehicle thefts:

1. Los Angeles PD (18,705)	6. Fresno PD (4,943)
2. California Highway Patrol (13,111)	7. Sacramento PD (4,618)
3. Los Angeles County SO (12,416)	8. Riverside County SO (4,533)
4. San Diego PD (6,931)	9. San Francisco PD (4,457)
5. San Jose PD (5,894)	10. Oakland PD (3,943)

VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS

- The 1991 Honda Accord ranks as the number one stolen vehicle statewide and the 1994 Honda Accord and 1992 Honda Accord are ranked at numbers two and three, respectively. With the abundance of older Hondas still on the road and a strong demand for replacement parts, these vehicles still have a relatively high value, given their age. Additionally, the ignition systems for these model years are easily defeated.
- Consistently since 1984, Toyota pickups have ranked as the number one most frequently stolen pickup truck. Its popularity is due to its resale value, large quantity still operating, interchangeable parts, and easily defeated ignition systems. It should be noted that with increasingly more technical alarm systems being utilized by Toyota, vehicles with model years of 1990 and later are less often included in the top 40 list of vehicles stolen.

- Freightliner commercial trucks with model years 2000, 1999, and 2001 are ranked as the three most frequently stolen vehicles in their category. John Deere farm vehicles ranked as the number one stolen vehicle in the farm equipment category. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

VEHICLE RECOVERIES

- Of the 158,883 vehicles stolen statewide in 2010, 88.6 percent were successfully recovered, representing 140,758 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 94.3 percent of the automobiles, 39.7 percent of the motorcycles, 89.2 percent of the personal trucks and vans, and 60.1 percent of the commercial trucks and trailers were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 59.7 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 5 percent were missing major components, 14.6 percent were stripped of minor parts, and the remaining 20.7 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- Although the total number of cargo thefts, by way of comparison to overall vehicle thefts in California is low, it is considered an ongoing problem. It is estimated this costs Californians hundreds of millions of dollars annually.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting vehicle theft recoveries:

1. Los Angeles PD (16,139)	6. Fresno PD (4,423)
2. Los Angeles County SO (10,665)	7. San Francisco PD (4,040)
3. California Highway Patrol (9,892)	8. Sacramento PD (3,959)
4. San Jose PD (5,509)	9. Riverside County SO (3,655)
5. San Diego PD (4,914)	10. Oakland PD (3,399)

INFORMATION SOURCES

Department of Justice Stolen Vehicle System, California Highway Patrol Vehicle Theft Information System, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.